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INTERACTION BETWEEN CAREGIVERS AND FAMILIES – Developing a new family nursing scale

Invited Speaker

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This presentation describes the first stages in the development and testing of a family nursing scale called “Family experienced care during child's illness (FECCI)”.

The study is a part of a multi-disciplinary family nursing research project of the Department of Nursing Science at University of Tampere titled “Effectiveness of interactional nursing interventions in relation to family health during the life span” funded by the Academy of Finland (110312). The overall aim of it is to promote and strengthen health, quality of life and internal and external support for families.

The aim of this subproject is to develop a family nursing scale from the parents' point of view for assessing the effectiveness of interaction between caregivers and families of children aged 1–3 who require acute hospital care.

Methods: FECCI was developed using concept categories drawn from Maijala's (2004) substantive theory of interaction. The scale was piloted at the first stage with 91 (n=91) parents and at the second stage with 157 (n=157) parents recruited from four hospitals in southern Finland. The structural validity of the scale was assessed by principal component analysis, and its internal consistency by Cronbach alpha values. The results of the statistical analysis are good enough to encourage further work to develop the scale. The preliminary results indicate reasonably good structural validity and internal consistency.

Practical issues in the developing of the instrument: Interaction is an abstract and multidimensional concept which is difficult to convert to operational definitions. It is challenging to find the optimal level between general and practical expressions.

Preliminary results of the experienced interaction between families and care givers will be presented from the family's point of view.